

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-03 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 COME-00 FRB-03 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01

CU-05 SPM-01 IO-14 HEW-08 INT-08 FPC-01 DRC-01 /208 W

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R 152104Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6194

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3274

EO 11652: HDS

TAGS: SPOP ECON PGOV ES

SUBJ: PRESIDENT MOLINA'S COMMENTS ON DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT MOLINA AUGUST 14, HE COMMENTED ON DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS AND CITED A REPORT HE HAD BEEN READING WHICH HIS HEALTH MINISTER HAD GIVEN HIM ON THE EVE OF THE LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR THE BUCHAREST WORLD POPULATION MEETING. THIS REPORT FOCUSED ON THE HARD FACT OF EL SALVADOR'S BURGEONING POPULATION PROBLEMS AS A SEVERE OBSTRUCTION TO DEVELOPMENT. MOLINA WAS STRUCK BY THE DEPRESSING TONE OF THE REPORT, WHICH HE REGARDED AS FULLY JUSTIFIED, AND ASKED THE MINISTER TO MODIFY ITS USE SOMEWHAT FOR PURPOSES OF THE BUCHAREST MEETING. HE REITERATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE POPULATION PLAN BUT CITED THE NEED TO PROCEED WITH SOME CAUTION IN STYLE SO AS TO MINIMIZE OPPOSITION BY SOME WHO FEARED UNJUSTIFIABLY THAT "MASS STECRLIZATION" WAS THE ULTIMATE AND SOLE INTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

2. IM ENTIONED THAT TODAY WE WERE DELIVERING TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH SOME INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE GRAPHS ON THE POPULATION PROBLEM IN EL SALVADOR. THESE EXMPHASIZED  
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THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM, AND WOULD BE IN THE HANDS

OF THE MINISTER BEFORE HE LEFT FOR BUCHAREST. I SUGGESTED THAT PRESIDENT MOLINA MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN REVIEWING THIS MATERIAL. HE ASKED THAT I SEND IT TO HIM. THIS HAS BEEN DONE.

3. MOLINA SAID THAT HE WAS WORKING HARD TO IMPROVE THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE, CITING THE NEXT EXPORT PROMOTION LAW AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (CERRON GRANDE POWER PROJECT AND THE COMALAPA AIRPORT). I TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT I HAD CALLED ON MR. DE SOLA, THE PRESIDENT OF CEL, AND HE HAD INVITED ME TO VISIT CERRON GRANDE, WHICH I INTENDED TO DO. PRESIDENT MOLINA OFFERED ME THE USE OF HIS HELICOPTER SINCE THE DRIVE IS LONG AND DIFFICULT. I ACCEPTED AND WILL MAKE THE TRIP WHEN I RETURN FROM WASHINGTON.

4. HE STATED THAT HE WAS ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW INDUSTRIES AND CITED TEXAS INSTRUMENTS AS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF A LABOR INTENSIVE NEW INDUSTRY. HE NOTED THAT HE WAS TRYING TO REASSURE THE PRIVATE SECTOR BY DIRECT CONTACT WITH LEADERS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS COMMITTED TO DEVELOPMENT AND REFORMS THROUGH "DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTIONALISM, NOT SOCIALISM."

5. ALSO HE WAS GROPING WITH THE CONTINUING PROBLEM OF THE EXTREME-LEFT DOMINANCE OF STUDENT POLITICS AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AND EXPLOITATION OF THE STUDENTS IN PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS. WHILE THESE WERE UNDESIRABLE, HE DID NOT WISH TO MOVE SEVERELY AGAINST THE STUDENTS SINCE THIS WOULD ONLY CREATE STREET VIOLENCE WHICH WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO A GOOD INVESTMENT CLIMATE AND TOURISM.

6. MOLINA ASKED ME ABOUT MY CHILDREN AND THEIR SCHOOLING. HE TOLD ME THAT HIS TWO OLDEST SONS, ARMANDO AND ROBERTO, ARE FINISHING A SPECIAL ENGLISH COURSE AT THE UNIVERSITY IN HATTESBURG, MISSISSIPPI. ARMANDO WILL BE GOING TO OKLAHOMA FOR HELICOPTER PILOT'S TRAINING AND ROBERTO WILL ENROLL AS AN "OBSERVER" (I.E., TO AUDIT COURSES) AT TULANE UNTIL HIS ENGLISH IS APPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO ENROLL IN A FULL-TIME CREDIT COURSE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION. I OFFERED TO ASSIST ROBERTO IN ENROLLING IN TULANE, SINCE MY DAUGHTER IS ATTENDING TULANE AND I KNOW THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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UNIVERSITY. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW ORLEANS WAS ASSISTING HIS SON, BUT THAT HE WOULD CONTACT ME THROUGH MR. MOSKOWITZ IF HE NEEDED ASSISTANCE. I WILL RETURN THROUGH NEW ORLEANS AND CONTACT THE CONSUL GENERAL TO BE CERTAIN THAT THE PRESIDENT'S SON IS ENROLLED.

7. IN CLOSING HE MENTIONED THAT HE HAD ADMIRERED PRESIDENT NIXON AND HAD ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET HIM. I TOLD HIM THAT

I HAD A LETTER FOR HIM FROM PRESIDENT NIXON, BUT THAT I HAD BEEN UNABLE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO DELIVER THE LETTER AT AN EARLIER DATE, AND HANDED HIM THE LETTER.

8. HE THANKED ME AND APOLOGIZED FOR NOT SEEING ME SOONER, BUT SAID THAT HE HAD NOW INSTRUCTED HIS NEW SECRETARY TO HONOR MY REQUESTS FOR APPOINTMENTS PROMPTLY DESPITE HIS BUSY SCHEDULE.

9. PRESIDENT MOLINA WISHED ME A PLEASANT TRIP TO WASHINGTON AND ASKED THAT WE GET TOGETHER SOON AFTER MY RETURN.  
CAMPBELL

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## Message Attributes

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